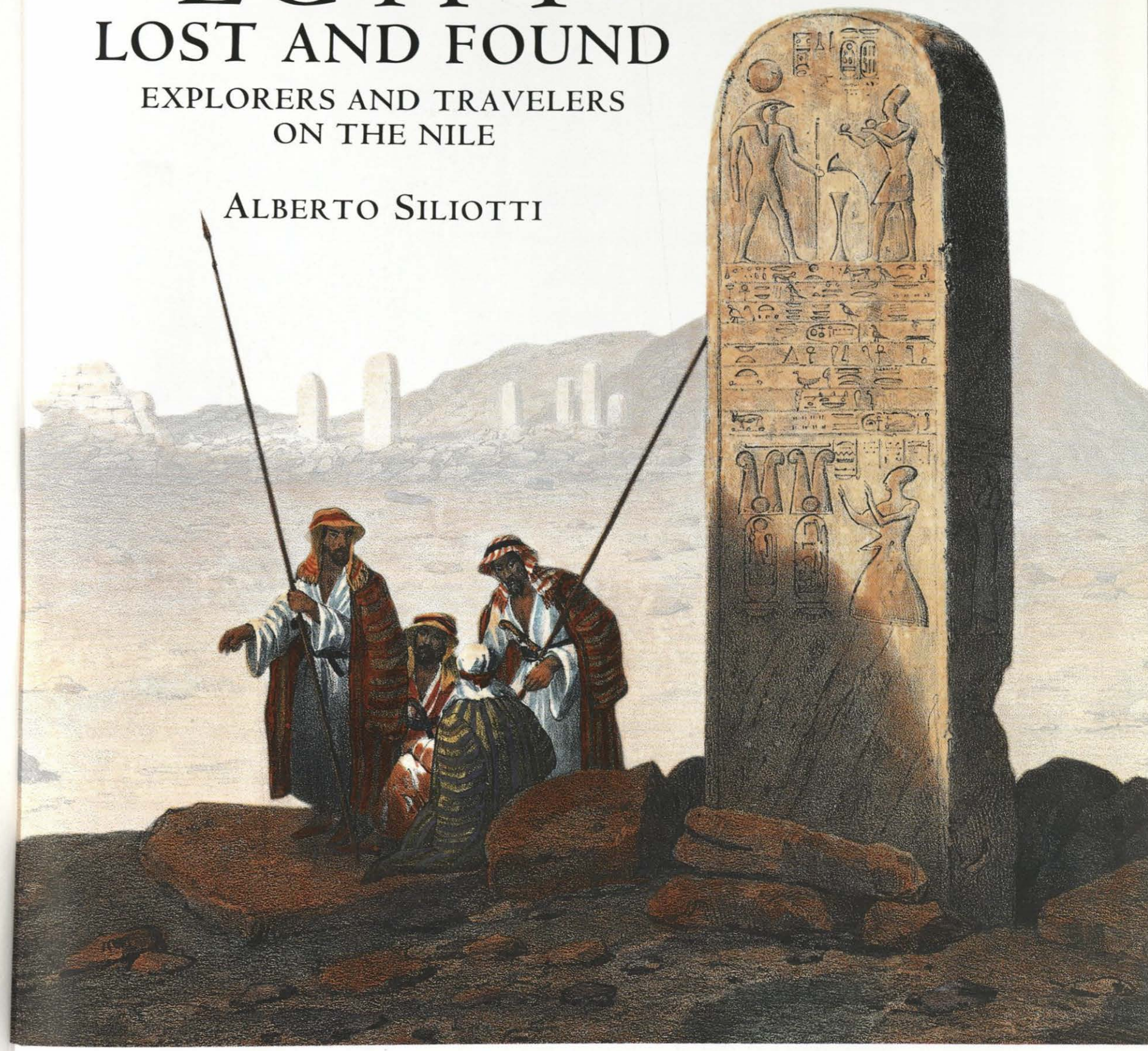
EGYPT
LOST AND FOUND

EXPLORERS AND TRAVELERS ON THE NILE

ALBERTO SILIOTTI



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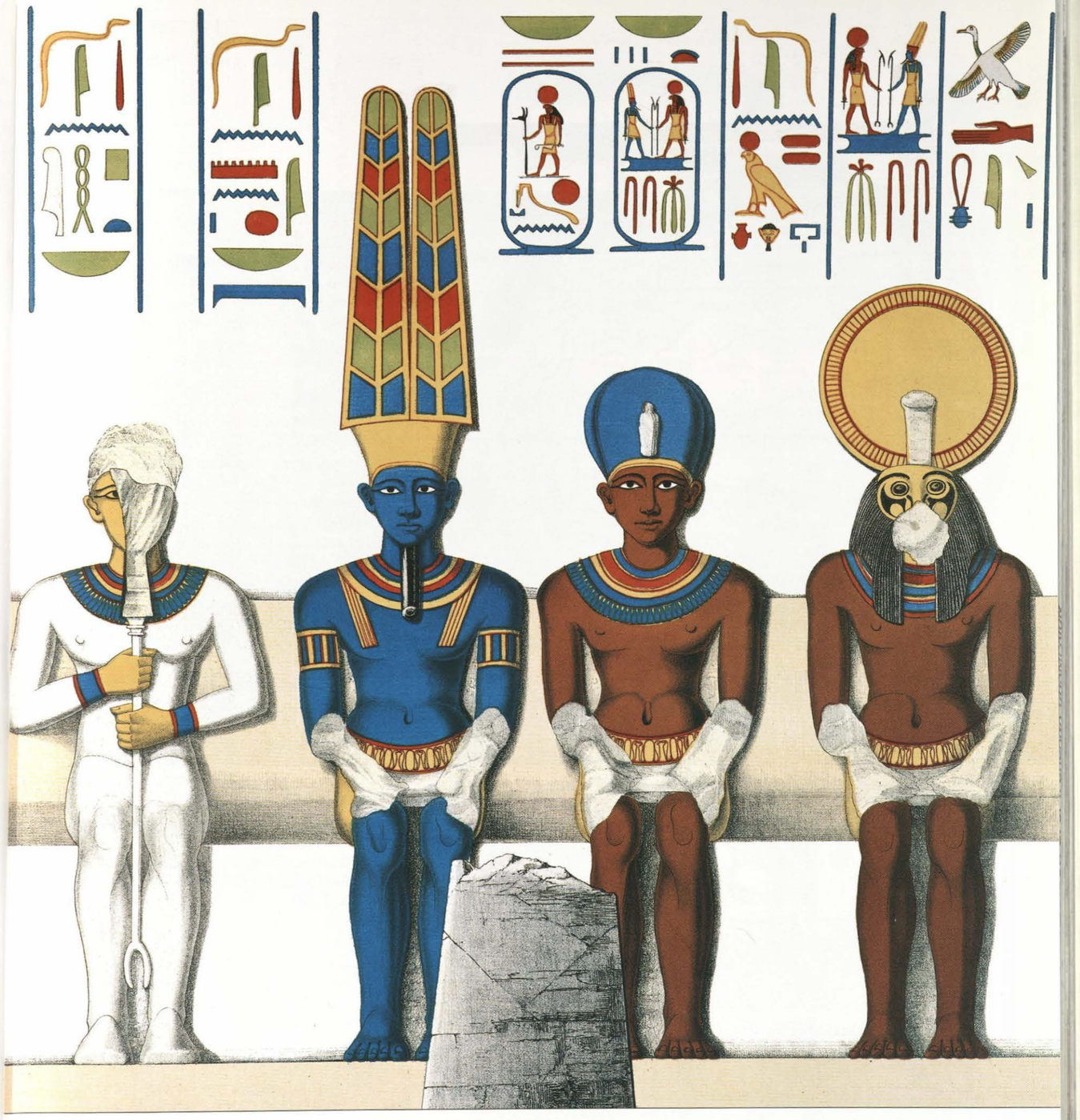

(Note: caption numbers refer to the pages on which the illustrations appear.)

1 L.M.A. Linant de Bellefonds and Léon de Laborde were the first Europeans to draw the ruins of the ancient Egyptian temple of Serabit el-Khadim in the Sinai. The two travellers are depicted here in Arab costume at the site.

2–3 In this striking and very imaginative reconstruction of the great monuments of ancient Egypt, the French artist Louis François Cassas (1756–1827) has combined various architectural elements that in reality belong to different periods. Towering over everything is a pyramid typical of the Old Kingdom; in front, a pylon and temple courtyard are in the Ptolemaic style; and a pair of obelisks date from the New Kingdom.

4–5 David Roberts (1796–1864) is one of the greatest and certainly the most famous of the artists who depicted the antiquities of ancient Egypt; his watercolours combine remarkable precision in the representation of detail with a high artistic standard. When he reached the site of Edfu in November 1838, the portico of the temple of Horus, dating from the Ptolemaic period, was still almost completely buried in sand.

6–7 Richard Lepsius (1810–84) reached Abu Simbel in 1843, at the head of the Prussian Expedition; in that year and the next he executed numerous drawings and carried out surveys of the Great Temple of Ramesses II. The expedition's artists tried to reproduce the original colours of the monument, as seen here. On the left is one of the colossi of the pharaoh as Osiris, appearing to hold up the ceiling of the first hypostyle hall. Above are four statues, representing, from left to right, the gods Ptah and Amun-Re, the deified Ramesses II and the god Re-Harakhty, which are situated in a niche at the back of the sanctuary of this temple.

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